

8487; Ellis Mishulovich at the Yale Center for East European Studies, (203) 432-3423, or the Children of Chernobyl Foundation, (201) 376-5140.

IN HONOR OF THE CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION COUNCIL OF  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 1996, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County, Inc. [CAPC] will be celebrating its 20th year of providing critical services to children and families in my congressional district. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CAPC and its staff and volunteers for their dedication, perseverance and significant contribution to the community. They truly have helped to make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Founded in 1976 as part of an umbrella organization and incorporated in 1984 as an independent nonprofit corporation, the council serves as the county's clearinghouse for child abuse prevention information and referral, public education, and advocacy services.

The Council's message to "Stop Child Abuse" reaches over 70,000 county residents each year. As the only agency in Contra Costa County solely dedicated to child abuse prevention, the council provides a number of programs and services designed to educate, inform, and involve the general public in preventing child abuse. Also, by connecting victims, abusers and those at-risk for abuse with much-needed services, the council serves a critical function in stopping the vicious cycle of child abuse in our society at large.

The council recruits, trains and maintains an active roster of over 30 volunteers who participate in our Partnership for Prevention Program. This program is designed to provide educational presentations to colleges, schools, daycare and Headstart centers, shelters, community groups, professionals serving children, service clubs, churches, community service agencies, firefighters, and corporate employees. Its trained volunteers provide over 100 presentations throughout the county to over 5,000 people annually.

The council coordinates public and private agencies involved in the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse in Contra Costa County. In 1982, by order of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, CAPC was designated as the coordinating agency of the Interagency Child Abuse Systems Review Committee, an ongoing committee which identifies problems in the county's service delivery system and makes recommendations to the board of supervisors. In 1988, the council was also named as the coordinating agency for the Contra Costa County Child Death Review Multidisciplinary Team, which reviews deaths of children under the age of 18 years.

In 1992, the Council established the county-wide Multidisciplinary Interview Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing planning for a future Multidisciplinary Interview Center in Contra Costa County. This center would provide a one-stop interviewing for child sexual

abuse victims, and streamline investigation, and prosecution processes for child sexual abuse cases.

In 1982, the CAPC special needs fund was established—with assistance from the Oakland Tribune—to provide small cash grants to help meet the special needs of families in which children may be in jeopardy and/or need. Each year the council disburses approximately 15 grants to families in Contra Costa County.

In 1985, an interagency task force was convened by the council to develop a comprehensive resources directory of primary prevention and support services available to residents of Contra Costa County. The directory, "Surviving Parenthood," is now in its 5th edition and has been established as the leading resource for families in crisis.

More recently, CAPC developed a "Kids: Instruction for Care" campaign which includes the distribution of T-shirts and bookmarks designed to highlight basic parenting skills. The bookmarks are distributed in daycare facilities, schools, and libraries throughout the county, and the T-shirts and now in more than 25 States and 11 countries.

Next month, the council will celebrate its 20th anniversary, and I am pleased to see that the council has as much energy today as when it first began. The council is expanding its programs to meet the growing needs of the county. This year the child abuse prevention council will be opening a second office in Richmond, CA, to provide more accessible services to families and children in west Contra Costa County.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I salute CAPC on its 20th anniversary and hope that they not only continue their important efforts but can serve as a model for other communities in their efforts to combat the scourge of child abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 28, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 106. I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 106, final passage of H.R. 3103, the Health Coverage Availability Act.

CITIZENSHIP USA

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 18, 1996, the INS announced the Chicago kickoff of Citizenship USA, a major nationwide initiative designed to help eligible immigrants become U.S. citizens. The goal of this worthwhile initiative is to ensure that by September 30, 1996, eligible persons who apply for citizenship will become citizens within 6 months. In Chicago alone the INS is expected to conduct more than 850 interviews each day, 4 days a week. This historic announcement was made before a crowd of 1,100 new citizens, representing 71 nations,

who took the citizenship oath at the Navy pier ceremony.

As a proud participant of the development of this very important initiative in Chicago I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my remarks during the Chicago Citizenship USA kickoff.

CITIZENSHIP USA

(By Luis Gutierrez)

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this day possible and make it such a success, and for giving me the opportunity to be with all of you today. I want to say a particular word of thanks to Mayor Richard Daley. In a time when far too many elected officials across our nation have found that exploiting people's fears and ignorance about the immigrant community can be the road to a few extra votes, our Mayor has demonstrated a consistent commitment to immigrants to our great city.

Mayor Daley, I thank you for that commitment. And most importantly, I thank all of you who are here before us today, allowing us to share in this very special day of accomplishment for all of you. The elected and appointed officials who are on this podium today have the easy part of the program. We are fortunate enough to be able to congratulate you and share in your success.

All of you have done the hard part. You have left family and friends in your native country. Overcome barriers of language and culture and custom. Endured the frustrations of government bureaucracy and paperwork and frequent indifference. And weathered the words and policies and efforts of some of us here in America who still, after 220 years of our nation growing and thriving because of the contributions of immigrants, who still don't want you in our land.

And yet, here you are, about to make our country stronger and greater and better by becoming citizens of the United States of America. For your effort, and dedication, and commitment to reaching your dream, I thank you. And today, as you make your dream come true, you are doing more than just taking a big step forward for you and your family. You are sending a message to the people of Chicago, the people of Illinois, the people of America.

Two days from now, I will go to Washington. And in Washington this week, we are debating H.R. 2202. It's a bill about immigration and naturalization. And the people who wrote that bill are blind to all of you who are here today. They are blind to your hopes and dreams and contributions and efforts to build a better America. And that blindness is reflected in one of the most horribly anti-immigrant bills to be introduced into Congress in our lifetime.

So we will debate in Washington this week just how many of these types of ceremonies we should really have in our country. The people who wrote that bill say a lot less. I say we should have a lot more. Because when we debate the question, "what should our immigration policy be," we are really asking ourselves something much more important.

We are asking, "what kind of nation should we be?" "What kind of America should we be?" Should we be the proud, and confident, and vibrant America that has welcomed immigrants from across our globe, and grown better and stronger because of their contributions? Or should we be a small, and fearful, and declining America that shuts our borders and closes our minds and turns our back on people who want nothing more than to help make America great?

That is the real choice of our immigration debate this week. To listen to the red-hot rhetoric about the dangers of immigration, and about immigrants who are making our